

Weekly Chemawa American

VOL. 14

JULY 28, 1911

NOS. 2 and 3

Pontiac

Pontiac, the mighty Sachem of the Ottawas, was, in many respects, the greatest of all Indian chiefs; and for many years he was the most feared. He was principal chief of that tribe of Indians, but by his skill as an organizer, he evidently drew under his leadership many other nearby tribes, and was known and respected among all the savages who resided in the country stretching from the Ohio river to the lowest waters of the Mississippi.

Pontiac possessed great energy, craftiness, and oratorical prowess, while his courage in war was far-famed. It was said he commanded the Ottawas in the defeat of General Braddock at Fort Duquesne—during the French and Indian war—and it is certain that he was treated with honor by the French officers, for one of them had presented him with the regimentals of a soldier of that country, which he is only known to have worn upon one occasion.

The following story is related of the crafty Red War Lord or Red "Napoleon" as he came to be named. One day, closely-wrapped in a most peaceful looking blanket, Pontiac slouched into the

courtyard at the Detroit fort. At his heels followed a throng of savages. Each was garbed in the same way, and all carried some article of sale. A more harmless crowd of Indians could not have been found in all America.

So carefully were the blankets wrapped about the redskins that not even the keenest eye would have been able to have detected the rifles, knives and tomahawks that were hidden beneath their folds. The plan of the chief was that having entered the fort, the blankets were to be thrown aside, the gates thrown open to a larger body of hidden Indians, and the defenseless English garrison and townsfolk massacred.

But the plan of what was to happen had been revealed to the commander by an Indian girl, and when Pontiac entered the inclosure he found the walls bristling with armed and prepared soldiers. The trick had failed. But Pontiac's heavy copper colored features showed no disappointment as he stalked out again at the head of his warriors.

This wrecked his whole plan of conquest. His failure to capture the Detroit fort lost to Pontiac the trust of many of

(Continued on page 8.)